



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/473,683	12/29/1999	STEPHEN PALM	P18062	1308

7055 7590 03/11/2004

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE  
RESTON, VA 20191

EXAMINER

KUMAR, PANKAJ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2631

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/473,683

Applicant(s)

PALM, STEPHEN

Examiner

Pankaj Kumar

Art Unit

2631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20, 22-24 and 52-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 53-59 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21-24 and 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12, 13, 16.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Response to Amendment***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scott USPN 5,349,635.

4. As per claim 17, Scott teaches a method for performing a startup session to establish a high speed communication session, comprising: having a first communication system transmit a first predetermined signal (Scott fig. 2: 510 – transmit 2100 Hz V.32 answer tone) to a second communication system, the first communication system and the second communication system both supporting a half duplex operating mode (Scott abstract 3<sup>rd</sup> line; background of the invention 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; summary of the invention 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph) the first predetermined signal being phase reversed at predetermined intervals (Scott col. 3 lines 42-59 "... V.32 answer tone conforms to CCITT V.32, e.g., it comprises phase reversals and is a 2100 Hz signal ..."; when phase reversal is defined in a standard, the standard must also define that phase reversals occur at

Art Unit: 2631

predetermined intervals so that standard systems can communicate.); detecting the first predetermined signal (Since 530 stops 2100 Hz answer tone transmission, it inherently detecting it) at the second communication system, the second communication system responding to the first communication system by transmitting a selected signal (Scott fig. 2: 530 transmits 2021 Hz answer tone); halting, for a predetermined time period, the transmission of the first predetermined signal by the first communication system (Scott fig. 2: 530 stop transmission of the 2100 Hz answer tone) when the selected signal is detected by the first communication system, a second predetermined signal (Scott fig. 2: 530 transmits a 2021 Hz answer tone and thus it inherently detects it), indicating a half duplex operating mode (Scott abstract 3<sup>rd</sup> line; background of the invention 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; summary of the invention 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph), being transmitted by the first communication system upon an expiration of the predetermined time period (Scott fig. 2: 2021 Hz answer tone transmitted after 4sec have elapsed in 515 with no 1800 Hz signal), the second communication system stopping the transmission of the selected signal (Scott fig. 2: 530: 2100 Hz answer tone stopped) upon detection of the second predetermined signal (Scott fig. 2: 530: 2100 Hz answer tone stopped when 2021 Hz answer tone is transmitted which inherent requires detection); and acknowledging the half-duplex mode by the second communication system by the turning OFF of the selected signal, so that a high speed half-duplex mode communication session is established (In fig. 2, Scott acknowledges the half duplex mode with 208B mode – col. 6 lines 17-21 - which occurs after the 2100 Hz signal is stopped).

Art Unit: 2631

5. As per claim 20, Scott teaches the method of claim 17 wherein having the first communication system transmit the first predetermined signal comprises transmitting the first predetermined signal from at least one signal family (first signal 2100 Hz is from v.32 signal family and/or answer tone signal family and/or full duplex signal family).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 18 to 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Scott USPN 5,349,635.

8. As per claim 18, Scott teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the first communication system comprises a remote system (Scott fig. 1: 100 is after a telephone interface and so it is remote) and a second communication system (Scott fig. 1: 300).

9. What Scott does not teaches that that the second communication system comprises a central office system. Instead, Scott has a separate modem, which is communication system 300, whose location is not defined. Since communication system's location is not defined, it can comprise a central office system.

10. It is common knowledge that communication systems can be at various locations.

11. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Scott to teach that a second communication system comprises a central office system.

Art Unit: 2631

12. One would be motivated to do so since a communication system can be anywhere, it would be simplest to control a communication system from a central place like a central office.

13. As per claim 19, Scott teaches the method of claim 17.

14. Scott does not teach the first communication system and the second communication system each support a high speed xDSL communication session.

15. It is common knowledge that xDSL exists.

16. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Scott to teach xDSL.

17. One would be motivated to do so since xDSL is just a method or manner of intended use of the apparatus rather to delineating claimed structure.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

18. Claims 21, 22, 23, 24, 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

19. Claims 53-59 are allowed.

20. As per claim 53, Scott teaches a method for performing a startup session to establish a high speed communication session, comprising: having a first communication system transmit a first predetermined signal (Scott fig. 2: 510 – transmit 2100 Hz V.32 answer tone) to a second communication system, the first communication system and the second communication system both supporting a half duplex operating mode (Scott abstract 3<sup>rd</sup> line; background of the

Art Unit: 2631

invention 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; summary of the invention 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph) the first predetermined signal being phase reversed at predetermined intervals (Scott col. 3 lines 42-59 "... V.32 answer tone conforms to CCITT V.32, e.g., it comprises phase reversals and is a 2100 Hz signal ..."; when phase reversal is defined in a standard, the standard must also define that phase reversals occur at predetermined intervals so that standard systems can communicate.); detecting the first predetermined signal (Since in fig. 2, 515, 4 seconds from 510 is being counted, it inherently detecting it) at the second communication system, the second communication system responding to the first communication system by transmitting a C-TONES signal (not in Scott but would be obvious to rename signals); halting, for a predetermined time period, the transmission of the first predetermined signal by the first communication system when the C-TONES signal is detected by the first communication system, a R-FLAG signal, indicating a half duplex operating mode, being transmitted by the first communication system upon an expiration of the predetermined time period, the second communication system stopping the transmission of the C-TONES signal upon detection of the R-FLAG signal; and acknowledging the half-duplex mode by the second communication system by the turning OFF of the C-TONES signal, so that a high speed half-duplex mode communication session is established. (not in Scott)

### Conclusion

21. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2631


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pankaj Kumar whose telephone number is (703) 305-0194. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs after 8AM to after 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad H. Ghayour can be reached on (703) 306-3034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PK

  
MOHAMMAD H. GHAYOUR  
PRIMARY EXAMINER